



Australian Government

Department of Veterans' Affairs



# AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

Australians all let us rejoice,  
For we are one and free;  
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;  
Our home is girt by sea;  
Our land abounds in nature's gifts  
Of beauty rich and rare;  
In history's page, let every stage  
Advance Australia Fair.  
In joyful strains then let us sing,  
Advance Australia Fair.

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross  
We'll toil with hearts and hands;  
To make this Commonwealth of ours  
Renowned of all the lands;  
For those who've come across the seas  
We've boundless plains to share;  
With courage let us all combine  
To Advance Australia Fair.  
In joyful strains then let us sing,  
Advance Australia Fair.

## Anzac Day

[anzacportal.dva.gov.au](http://anzacportal.dva.gov.au)

*Lest We Forget.*



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# ORIGINS OF OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM

The original composition of the song 'Advance Australia Fair', written by Peter Dodds McCormick in 1878, had four verses.

Between 1973 and 1984, a competition and several national polls were held to determine the Australian public's opinion of their desired national anthem.

Several of the polls indicated that 'Advance Australia Fair' was favoured, followed by 'Waltzing Matilda'.

In 1981, the National Australia Day Council recommended the Australian National Anthem consist of the first and second verses of 'Advance Australia Fair', with some modifications.

In April 1984, then Governor-General, the Rt Hon Sir Ninian M Stephen KG AK GCMG GCVO KBE QC, proclaimed 'Advance Australia Fair' as the Australian National Anthem, using the verses drafted by the National Australia Day Council.

On 1 January 2021, the words of the second line of the Australian National Anthem were amended from 'For we are young and free' to 'For we are one and free', by proclamation made by the Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), on the Australian Government's advice.

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